

Remarks

Claims 1-23 were pending. By way of this response, claims 9-11, 13, and 14 have been amended, and claims 17-23 have been cancelled. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the application as originally filed, and no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are currently pending.

In the November 5, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner is requiring election of a single species selected from one of claims 8-11.

Applicant hereby elects the species of claim 8. However, in view of the amendments to the claims set forth above, applicant submits that claims 1-9 and 11-16 read on the elected species.

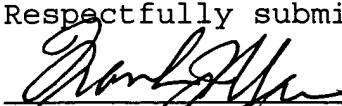
Applicant reserves the right to present additional species upon the allowance of a generic claim or claims.

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In conclusion, applicant submits that the present claims, that is claims 1-16 are allowable. Therefore, applicant requests the Examiner to pass the above-identified application to issuance at an early date. Should any matters remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to call (collect) applicant's attorney at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 5, 2003


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